

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment prior to examination of the present application. Claims 7-9 are amended. Claims 1-14 are pending in the application.

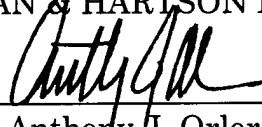
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: July 13, 2004

By:   
Anthony J. Orler  
Registration No. 41,232  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900  
Los Angeles, California 90071  
Phone: 213-337-6700  
Fax: 213-337-6701